REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicants have amended claims 15, 20 and 21; claims 1-14, 16-19 and 24-32 have been canceled; and claims 33-34 have been added. Accordingly, claims 15, 20-23 and 33-34 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants gratefully acknowledge the conditional allowance of claims 15 and 20-23. New claims 33 and 34 are computer program and apparatus claims that are identically based on the conditionally allowed method claim 15. No new matter has been added.

3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 24-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tiedemann, Jr., et al. (US 2003/0161285) in view of Yafuso (US 2003/0103470). The Applicants have canceled claims 1-3 and 24-32.

The Examiner rejected claims 4-5, 9, 17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tiedemann in view of Yafuso and further in view of Malladi, et al. (US 2003/0210668). The Applicants have canceled claims 4-5, 9, 17 and 19.

The Examiner rejected claims 6 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tiedemann in view of Yafuso and further in view of Hwang, et al. (US 2002/0115464). The Applicants have canceled claims 6 and 10.

The Examiner rejected claims 7-8, 11-14, 16 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tiedemann in view of Yafuso, and further in view of Leslie (US 5,115,514). The Applicants have canceled claims 7-8, 11-14, 16 and 18.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 15, 20-23 and 33-34.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

Respectfully submitted.

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